

MINUTES

VLAB Meeting, October 6, 2010

Patrick Henry Building

Richmond, VA

Members present: Deborah Santiago, Beatriz Amberman, Eddie Reyes, Peter Loach, Michel Zajur, Victor Gómez, Zuraya Tapia, Gabriel Rojas, Rosaura Aguerreberre

Guests present: Michael Eggleston, Sharon Brown, Tracey Keller

Liaison to Governor's Office: Duane Stafford

- I. Martin Kent, CoS
- II. Jim Hopper
 - a) Discussed Advisory board regulations and code. Overview of board functions, duties and procedures.
 - b) Questions were asked regarding the process for proclamation and dismissal of BOG members who are absent.
 - c) Question re: Are we allowed to lobby? Either as an individual or as the VLAB we do not "lobby" because we are not registered lobbyists.
 - d) Note that if we were to advocate as VLAB, we'd need to print notice, then congregate.
 - e) Question regarding preparedness – Peter Loach brought up the issue of how 287(g) might impact local ability to manage emergency responses/preparedness.
 - a. FEMA does provide local and state funding for community education programs.
 - b. Important for us to involve the minority community more in these trainings
- III. Matt Strader – DMV, Special Assistant
 - a. Discussion on the new regulation that does not accept the Employer Authorization Document (EAD) – As it stands, the EAD is not *eliminated*, it is *under review* by the VA AG. Right now, an EAD is not sufficient to get a license, you also need to bring a US passport or other Immigration Application Receipt (I-777; I790).
 - b. How long will the review be? Response: No way to know, it's up to the AG.
 - c. Primary concern was that one of the categories of people who are eligible to get EAD are those who are in deportation process.
 - d. ZTH brought up the issue of not accepting docs in addition to EAD, because when an immigrant goes through the application process, there is a "limbo" period during which they do not have a visa nor Greencard. Also brought up the issue of disparate impact on legal residents.

- e. Beatriz Amberman and Peter Loach also brought up concerns regarding this policy. Peter brought up valid issue that even if someone is in the “deportation process,” i.e. not yet found guilty, he/she’s being penalized before there is a conviction. In the case of those who are convicted, regardless, the state is going against Federal policy, which is for whatever reason to think that these individuals should be able to work while they await deportation.
- f. Closing comments from DMV – there is assistance available in both English and Spanish for those who have trouble. Materials are on website and some are in Spanish. It’s important that VLAB get involved in reaching out to members of the community and training them.

IV. Communications Outreach Opportunities

- a) Discussion on how to better reach out to Latinos. VLAB brought up the issue that previously there was a Latino Outreach staffer for the Governor.
- b) Beatriz highlighted how the process worked before.
- c) Need to update Hispanic press list.
- d) We listed the primary Spanish language print media in NOVA. Stacey would like to get our intel as to which reporters specifically we have a personal relationship with or are involved in these issues.

V. Discussion on how to proceed with VLAB vacancies – follow up will be executed in order to obtain formal resignation from members who cannot attend meetings

VI. VA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce presentation

VII. Discussion of next meeting dates.